

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants elect Group I, including Claims 33-66, 72-101 and 107, drawn to a device for coupling bone across a fracture or osteotomy, classified in Class 606, subclass 69. Applicants make the election without traverse.

In response to the Examiner's requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 for Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution, Applicants elect Figure 19 (including Figures 19a, 19b and 19c) for prosecution. Applicants note that Claims 33-38, 40, 41, 43, 66, 72, 73, 76-79, 81, 82 and 101 are generic. Further, Claims 39-47, 52-55, 57, 74, 75, 80, 84-87, 92, 93 and 95 cover the elected species.

In summary, Claims 33-47, 52-55, 57, 66, 72-82, 84-87, 92, 93, 95 and 101 are presented for examination. Claims 48-51, 56, 58-65, 83, 88-91, 94, 96-100 and 102-107 are withdrawn.

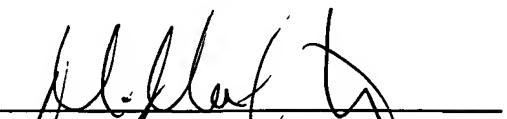
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Feb. 1, 2005

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